

Assassination Records Review Board-Kodak Meeting of August 21, 1997

Review of Previous Discussions:

-Subsequent to informal meetings between Kodak and ARRB during the summer and fall of 1996, in January 1997 Kodak formally offered to perform *pro bono* work for the Review Board (donate labor and materials to ARRB).¹

-In February, 1997 ARRB identified potential projects in writing so that Kodak could estimate the costs of each project.²

-In April, 1997 Kodak provided cost estimates for each potential project identified by ARRB.³

-In July, 1997 the Executor for the Kennedy Family Deed-of-Gift granted permission for movement of selected autopsy photographic materials to technical sites for research purposes, subject to ensuring that an appropriate level of security shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized purloining of autopsy materials.⁴

Photographic Work Desired by ARRB: (Items 1, 3 and 4 from ARRB letter of February 7, 1997)

- (1) Digitally scan and enhance, to the extent possible, the 3 latent post-mortem images of President Kennedy on the developed roll of 120 film, and create permanent images on CD ROM and on print paper.
- (2) Conduct film tests using a Model 414 PD Bell and Howell Zoomatic Director Series camera to determine whether the recognized anomalies in the Zapruder film theoretically attributed to claw flare, vignetting, development turbidity, first-frame inertial effect, and the design of the photo-electric cell are borne out by actual tests with film--i.e., create a "control" against which to compare the film identified in the Archives as the "out-of-camera original." Subsequently, write a report evaluating the likely meaning of similarities and/or differences observed between the newly created "control" film and the film in the Archives designated as the "out-of-camera original."

¹Kodak ltr to ARRB (ser JRM:mjf) dated January 7, 1997

²ARRB ltr to Kodak dated February 7, 1997

³Kodak ltr to ARRB (ser JRM:mjf) dated April 14, 1997

⁴Burke Marshall letter to the Honorable John R. Tunheim dated July 10, 1997

- (3) Digitize, analyze, and render judgments (in a written report) on selected autopsy images (color transparencies no. 42 and 43, and black-and-white negatives 15 and 16)⁵ of President Kennedy which pertain to authenticity (i.e., in order to determine whether the photographic products in the Archives represent unaltered images of a human form [i.e., a body at autopsy], altered images of a human form, or perhaps photographs of another [possibly altered] photograph. If these images are determined to be unaltered images of a human form, what additional details can be brought out through special color/false color processing and/or enhancement?) Make a permanent record of all research products on CD ROM and on color and black-and-white print paper.

Possible Additional Tests (costs permitting)

- (1) Write a technical report on the exact meaning of the edge print and date-code found on the Zapruder films at the National Archives designated as “out-of-camera original” and the two first-generation Secret Service copies, and address, to the extent possible, what the edge and date codes, and unique numerical codes either punched into the films or photographically copied, reveal about each film’s pedigree. (This would involve travel to Washington to examine the films in the Archives.)
- (2) Compare color print paper from a sample autopsy photographic print from the Deed-of-Gift collection with a sample print (circa early November 1963) provided by a former employee of Naval Photographic Center⁶, and determine whether the Kodak logo markings on the reverse side of each respective print reveals whether or not each print is from the same lot, or a different lot, of photographic paper. Write a technical report explaining the meaning of the logo markings on each print as possible identifiers of different lots of paper, and render a judgment as to whether the two sample prints are, or are not, from different lots of photographic paper.

⁵Black-and-white photocopy taken from HSCA Volume 7 is provided here for illustration purposes.

⁶Photocopy of reverse side of subject print provided here for illustration purposes.

- (3) Write a technical report assessing the age and pedigree of selected 35 mm copies of the Nix and Muchmore films (1 each) presently held at the National Archives. (This would involve travel to the National Archives in Washington.)⁷
- (4) Conduct a technical study, and render best possible professional judgements, regarding whether a given commercial videotape product was, or was not, created using selected film products available at the National Archives as masters. Write a technical report explaining methodology used, and findings.⁸
- (5) Compare color autopsy images with black-and-white autopsy images, and determine whether anomalies exist between reds and blues in the color images, and the corresponding gray-scale in equivalent black-and-white images, based on type of film and print paper used (i.e., prepare a written study which predicts gray-scale in the black-and-white autopsy images and render judgements as to whether the gray-scale in the black-and-white autopsy photos is what was expected, based on the reds and blues in the color transparencies).

⁷These two 35 mm copy films are evidence provided by an individual in response to an ARRB subpoena; they are presently held at the National Archives by NARA staff at ARRB's request.

⁸The commercial videotape is "The Assassination Films: JFK--The Case for Conspiracy, Vol. II." The films with which it will be compared are evidence provided by an individual in response to an ARRB subpoena, and are presently held at the National Archives by NARA staff at ARRB's request.